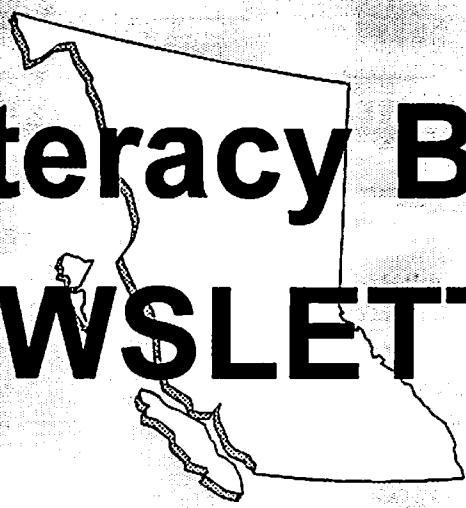




Literacy B.C. NEWSLETTER

March 1996

Volume 1, Number 4

Education in B.C. Now Under One Roof

The Ministry of Education and the Skills and Training section of the Ministry of Skills, Training and Labour have been consolidated into a single Ministry. The delivery of all educational programs by B.C. school districts, community colleges, and universities is now the responsibility of the Ministry of Education, Skills and Training (MOEST).

The restructuring is one of a number of initiatives, recently announced by Premier Glen Clark, to reduce the size and cost of the provincial government. The cost-cutting measures will "free up money we need to invest in the health care and education of British Columbians," said Clark.

MOEST will "ensure every available dollar is directed into the classroom and strengthen the linkage between B.C.'s education and skills training programs."

A separate Labour Ministry is responsible for apprenticeship programs and the B.C. Labour Force Development Board. □

Ministry of Education, Skills, and Training

The Honourable Paul Ramsey
Minister

Garry Wouters
Deputy Minister

Shell Harvey
Assistant Deputy Minister
Post-Secondary Education Division

Betty Notar
Assistant Deputy Minister
Skills Development Division

Ministry of Labour

The Honourable Penny Priddy
Minister

Claude Heywood
Deputy Minister

Audrey Thomas, Provincial Literacy Coordinator

Since November 1994, Audrey Thomas has been Provincial Literacy Coordinator in the Ministry of Skills, Training and Labour, now Education, Skills and Training (MOEST). The Coordinator gives support to, and acts as a liaison with, the literacy field and programs in B.C. The Coordinator is also a B.C. spokesperson for literacy in the national context. In addition, the Coordinator manages the funding of the annual \$1.4 million adult literacy projects cost-shared between the MOEST and the National Literacy Secretariat (NLS).

About the recent restructuring of Education with Skills and Training, Thomas says, "It is too early to say definitively what the impact will be for literacy, but having the two major literacy deliverers (community colleges and school districts) under one roof can only help enhance cooperation among the providers. We hope it will mean better opportunities for learners. Content issues, such as articulation between the two systems, a common adult credential and quality ABE framework should be more easily implemented. I am also pleased that Skills Development stays with MOEST, because it should mean closer working relations with Developmental Programs."

Thomas says that an important part of her role as Coordinator is to provide leadership in responding to emerging issues and initiatives which affect the literacy field. As an example, she

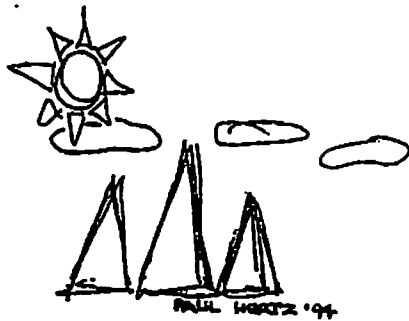
cites her efforts to help the field explore the use of new electronic technologies. She hosted an event last June on "Literacy and New Technologies," and has spearheaded a project that will give B.C. practitioners an opportunity to network on-line (see "Going On-Line," page 3). "The technology is just exploding," says Thomas, "and it is important to provide training opportunities for people in the field who are not familiar or comfortable with it. The training and the phasing in are crucial. I am also hoping people will see the potential of electronic communication for networking with colleagues across the province and for breaking down the barriers of geographic isolation many people in the field experience."

Thomas also cites the cost-shared project consultation held last October as an example of listening to and responding to the concerns of people in the field about the need to re-examine the cost-shared project process. As a result, many of the recommendations made at the consultation have been implemented. □

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Literacy B.C. Projects



1996 Summer Literacy Institute

Literacy B.C. will hold a Summer Literacy Institute for practitioners at the University of British Columbia, July 15 - 26, 1996. The Institute is funded through the 1995/96 B.C. literacy cost-shared program.

The deadline for registration is **May 1, 1996.**

Learn How to Survive and Thrive in the 90's!

Literacy B.C. is offering two-day, "how-to" workshops on the fundamentals of fund raising. The workshops are led by **Judi Angel, FAHP**, a fund raising and public relations professional.

The workshops are funded through the 1995/96 B.C. literacy cost-shared program.

The workshops are scheduled for:

Prince George	April (TBA)
Vancouver	May 1
Cranbrook	May 10 - 11
Nanaimo	May 24 - 25

For further information, contact Literacy B.C. at 1-800-663-1293.

Going On-Line

Literacy B.C. has received funding from the NLS to pilot the use of an electronic communications system within the B.C. literacy field. Capilano College is a partner in the project and will provide the host communications system and training.

The project will give practitioners an opportunity to network on-line utilizing First Class e-mail and conferencing software. Participants will receive training and local technical support. They will use First Class to share

information and resources, conference on relevant issues, and conduct committee business. Members of the Fundamental Articulation Committee, the Literacy Materials Committee, and the six Regional Literacy Coordinators will participate in the project.

The project will develop a model for an electronic communications network among a wide range of B.C. literacy practitioners, learners, and organizations.

Meet Vancouver Island's Regional Literacy Coordinator



(from left to right)

**Norah McLean, Regional Literacy
Coordinator, and
Carol Bossio, Learner Intern**

What is it like working with Carol Bossio, your learner intern in the project?

It's great. Carol and I were matched up when I was a tutor at The Write Place so we already had a relationship. We are doing some work together on the Internet and we talk a lot about what we would like to see happen in the region. For example, we both want to raise awareness among ABE instructors about literacy. We think it important for ABE instructors to have a good understanding of the kinds of struggles students who come to ABE from literacy programs have experienced.

The **Regional Literacy Networks** project trains literacy coordinators in six regions of B.C. to act as resource people for literacy and ABE practitioners, volunteer tutor program coordinators, and learners. The project is managed by Literacy B.C. and funded through the 1995/96 B.C. literacy cost-shared program.

For this issue of the newsletter we interviewed **Norah McLean**, regional literacy coordinator for the Malaspina and North Island regions on Vancouver Island.

Tell us a bit about your background.

Since July 1994 I have been the volunteer tutor program coordinator at CALLS, a community-based literacy program in Courtenay. I started as a tutor at The Write Place in Parksville in 1992. At the time I was studying for a degree in liberal studies from the University of Victoria. Working in literacy is personal for me because I went back as an adult and a single parent to get my grade 12 and my degree. I have a really good understanding of what it is like and how frightening it is financially. Even though I had done well in school as a child, I was very nervous about my ability to write and learn. I understand the feeling of walking through the doors of a college for the first time. It is a very difficult thing to do.

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Tell us about the area you coordinate.

I work in two regions, Malaspina and North Island. It's a very large area and travelling can be difficult. The area is very diverse. The Malaspina region is well connected with strong partnerships in place. In the North Island region, there are a lot of tiny isolated communities scattered along the coast. Part of my job is to contact people in the literacy field and provide information and support. I have contacted everyone by phone and I am hoping to travel throughout the region later this year. There is a lot of work to be done, finding and connecting programs and people.

What do you hope to accomplish through the project?

My vision is to see the different programs working together, sharing resources and resource people. It is through the process of interacting in this way that we grow stronger and are better able to serve the individuals that come to us for help with their education and personal growth.

What has happened in the region that would not have happened without a regional literacy coordinator?

We now have a literacy resource collection accessible to everyone in the region through the Vancouver Island Regional Library.

In addition, three events are coming to the region this spring. There will be workshops on professional development for volunteer tutors,

volunteer skills development for community organizations, and fund raising.

I have also provided consultation to community organizations and literacy instructors on developing proposals for the cost-shared grant process. I can see that this kind of community development will increase considerably next year.

What is it like working with the other regional literacy coordinators?

When we come together we model the type of networking and connection we try to do in our regions. We also bring issues and concerns from the field to Literacy B.C. ☐

Norah McLean
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E-mail: nrmclean@island.net

**Schedule of Upcoming Events
on Vancouver Island**

- ◆ Professional Development for Volunteer Tutors
Courtenay, April 26
- ◆ Volunteer Skills Development for Community Organizations
Courtenay, April 26 - 27
- ◆ How to Survive and Thrive in the 90's: Fund Raising Fundamentals
Nanaimo, May 24 - 25

For more information, contact
Norah McLean.

News from across B.C.

Let's Network!

In this issue of the *Literacy B.C. Newsletter* community literacy groups from around the province report on their activities.

From Vancouver Island:

Project Literacy Victoria The Learners' Network

Contact: Susan Kurushima
Phone: 381-3755 Fax: 381-4911

The Learners' Network, the volunteer tutor program of Project Literacy Victoria, is keeping busy! Since September 1996, we have trained 23 new tutors and welcomed 52 adult learners. In February, we had 75 active tutor and learner pairs working together. Most meet twice a week for about two hours. We have a real variety of additional opportunities for learning:

- ◆ The "Learners Helping Learners" group meets twice a month to plan activities for learners. They are writing a play and are working with a drama therapist to produce it in May.
- ◆ Volume 2 of *The Learners' Voice* was published in December. It contains stories, poems, and essays by adult learners in our program.
- ◆ "Speaking Out" is a six week communication and public speaking course for learners and tutors.
- ◆ "Real Life Learning" is a series of four workshops on affordable housing, health and nutrition, family law, banking and budgeting. We will produce plain

language learning kits to use in tutoring sessions. This project is funded by the federal government, the Victoria Foundation, and the Legal Services Society.

◆ "Breaking the Cycle" is a cost-shared project. We are working with the Learning Disabilities Association in Victoria to offer a course to learner parents. Workshops will cover topics such as learning disabilities and attention deficit disorder, advocacy and school district services, parenting, anger management, and "building on success." We will publish plain language information for use by both agencies.

◆ Tutor support meetings are held monthly and include several in-service workshops throughout the year. We are planning another session called "Emotional First Aid - Preventing Tutor Burnout."

We are looking forward to the 8th Annual PGI Golf Tournament for Literacy. It will take place at Uplands Golf Course in Victoria on July 17. That will be followed in August by our third used book sale, organized and run by tutors and learners.

Project Literacy Victoria will continue working to promote literacy and create public awareness in the community.

News from across B.C.

Victoria READ Society

Contact: Melanie Austin

Phone: 388-7225 Fax: 386-8330

Victoria READ Society is celebrating its 20th anniversary this year! It is hard to believe that we have been offering individual and small group instruction to children and adults for 20 years now.

We celebrated our 20th birthday with a READ Festival. This is a combination of our annual "Writes of Spring" poetry festival and a daytime Children's Festival. It is a celebration of READ and reading, and the events for both children and adults focus on the pleasure and importance of reading and literacy. The money raised is used to help children attend READ classes so they can keep up at school.

Arthur Black of CBC radio was the Master of Ceremonies for the evening event. He hosted seven of the best poets in Canada, including Susan Musgrave and Marilyn Bowering. Joseph Coburn, a learner/poet, read his poetry as well. Each year our learner's courage and willingness to share experiences inspires and moves the audience and reminds us of why we are here.

As we think back over our past history, the students, board members, and staff are also looking at ways to improve READ's current programs. We continue to offer assessments and classes for children and adults who come for an hour at a time to get the extra help they need with basic

academic skills. While about 100 students attend part-time, our bursary support is in constant demand, with 27 children attending classes because of money we provide through our bursary fund. We are always fund raising because we have 54 more children on the waiting list. They need help right away - while they are still children.

Our Adult Basic Skills full-time program graduated 14 students, and another program began in February with 16 students. We are also busy with 40 students in our three LINC (Language Instruction for Newcomers to Canada) classes.

READ is sponsoring the *Literacy Materials Bulletin* this year. We are also sponsoring a pilot project called Support Networks, through the cost-shared funding for literacy. Suzanne Ives, the coordinator, reports that adults in transition from literacy programs to the next step find support through this project. They are learning to set goals for themselves, and to develop strategies for meeting those goals.

The board has been working on strategic planning to develop goals for READ's future. We have already had a very intense winter changing our office and financial systems, and preparing for the READ Festival. Now we are beginning to plan the future of our programs - how best to meet the needs of adults and children who still need our help, and where to find the funding.



News from across B.C.

Literacy Nanaimo

Contact: Carolyn McWhinnie

Phone: 754-8988 Fax: 754-8114

Literacy Nanaimo operates a downtown office with three rooms available for tutor/learner pairs to work. We receive no government funding and generate all our revenue in our community. We are a member agency of the United Way, and we run regular bingos and a "used book" store staffed by volunteers. We also hold a number of special events throughout the year including a corporate spelling bee called "Word Whiz," and hot dog sales. This year we are going to try a plant sale in conjunction with Superior Propane's "Fill for Literacy" campaign.

We had a busy year with adult learners. We continue our partnership with Malaspina University College for the volunteer tutor program. This year the position of tutor coordinator was shared by two individuals and has worked extremely well. Literacy Nanaimo supplements the contract position allowing the individuals to be employed by Malaspina, with benefits.

We also coordinate a program in which volunteers work in elementary schools helping at-risk children with reading or math. The programs are called B.E.A.R.S. or B.E.A.M.S. - Being Enthusiastic About Reading (or Math) Success. We recruit the volunteers, arrange for their RCMP clearance, and send them on to participating schools. There are currently 17 schools involved in this program.

We also conduct "Reading Circles" in shopping centres in our area in which volunteers read stories to pre-school children. READ Canada, which has been very supportive of this program, has provided books and facilitated a workshop for our volunteers.

We ran two Adult Basic Skills classes with small groups of 10. These individuals were sponsored by Canada Employment.

Project Literacy Parksville/ Qualicum

The Write Place

Contact: Liz Campbell

Phone: 248-4041 Fax: 248-4042

The Write Place is currently operating under a \$46,000 grant from the Ministry of Education, Skills, and Training and Human Resources Development Canada (HRDC). The grant runs from September 1995 to March 31, 1996.

The funding enabled us to hire a second part-time staff member, and to move out of our very cramped offices into a character house with more space for tutors and students and the possibility of expanding our programs.

We held our 12th tutor training last fall. Presently about 60 literacy and ESL students are being tutored. Our scribe services also continue to be in great demand.

News from across B.C.

Community Adult Literacy & Learning Society (CALLS)

Contact: Linda Cooney
Phone/Fax: 338-9906

This is a very busy time for the Adult Learning Centre in Courtenay. Our tutoring service continues to grow. We have 16 volunteers serving 21 students. We will offer tutor training in early spring as we have a waiting list for tutors.

HRDC contracted us to offer a 14 week academic and employment skills class for 12 adults who left school early. There are 14 students and many more who wanted to join. HRDC may provide funding for a math and life skills class to encourage students to further their education at the college.

Our Family Literacy Project, funded by MOEST, HRDC (nationally and locally), and the Vancouver Foundation is proving very successful. We held workshops to assist parents with their children's schooling and have ongoing homework clubs.

We have received funding from the NLS to produce a booklet on how to organize a "Walk for Literacy." The book will be sent to literacy centres and colleges throughout B.C. in March. Eventually the book will be distributed throughout Canada. The Walk, scheduled every year on the second Sunday in June, was the brainchild of Carol Bossio, Literacy

B.C. board member and former student at The Write Place in Parksville.

We will host "Party-On II", a learner's event on April 13. All students are invited to attend.

We hope to encourage the B.C. government to issue a casino license in Courtenay if it decides to lift the moratorium on new casino licenses. This would be of great benefit to agencies who help people improve their lives.

Our race for funding continues and we are confident our service will not only survive, but thrive and grow!

From the Fraser Valley:

Abbotsford Literacy Association

Contact: Wendy Watson
Phone: 854-4533 Fax: 855-7558

◆ **Literacy for At-Risk Students:**
The Abbotsford Literacy Association helped launch the "Partners in Learning" tutoring program. This program trains selected pre-release inmates at Ferndale Institution to tutor at-risk students in alternate secondary schools in Abbotsford and Mission. The program, which has received

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considerable attention provincially and nationally, was funded by the NLS to produce a demonstration video. The video will assist other community organizations and correctional institutions to undertake a similar project. We assisted this project by providing members for the Steering Committee and through financial contributions. The other partners in this program are: School District #34 (Abbotsford), School District #75 (Mission), Ferndale Institution, University College of the Fraser Valley (UCFV), and Mission Literacy Association.

◆ **Family Literacy:** We are currently participating in the launch of a family literacy program called "Reading Rascals," which promotes reading within families. This program begins on April 12 at the John MacLure Community School. The families of 12 kindergarten students will participate in the six week pilot.

The program includes story and craft time for the kindergarten children, story and play time for younger siblings, and a discussion time with the parents. Parents and the librarian will discuss the book of the week, reading strategies, and the importance of family reading to the development of literacy skills in children. Every week each family will take home its free book and the children's crafts. Other partners in this program are: School District #34 (Abbotsford), Fraser Valley Regional Library, and UCFV.

Fraser Valley East Literacy Association

Contact: Sabrina Draper
Phone/Fax: 793-7975

The Fraser Valley East Literacy Association has several projects which have excelled in 1995. The outlook is very positive for 1996.

One of the most popular projects put together by the communities in and around Chilliwack is the "Families in Motion" program. There are currently 28 parents and children in the program, which has a waiting list. The advisory committee, with new chair Vicki Grieve, is looking at the possibility of expanding the family literacy program to other sites in the Chilliwack area.

The Chowiyes Employment Services of the Sto:lo Nation facilitates a personal development program for the adults in the program. Participants look at career paths with the use of the Medicine Wheel model, designed to help them learn about mother nature, roadblocks and barriers to employment, personality types, and the concept of self and self-image. They also learn about building self-esteem, communication skills, body language, anger management, and conflict resolution.

The adult participants in the program have also decided to hold a learner event involving their children, called "Sharing Food and Fun." They are

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News from across B.C.

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preparing a cookbook that will include family recipes and stories about the origins and history of the recipes. On April 13, the students will invite the community to an open house at the Kswah Indian Band Hall to sample some of the recipes and to see the cookbook.

While support for the Families in Motion program remains high, we are feeling the lack of volunteer time available in this community. We hired Aria Media Management to develop a campaign which will attract new members, as well as create more awareness about literacy in the upper Fraser Valley. The campaign will design a new brochure, publicize the learner event, arrange and make presentations to local businesses and community groups, write features for the local newspapers, and book time on local radio and cable TV talk shows.

We would appreciate suggestions from other groups that have completed successful membership drives and publicity campaigns.

From the Okanagan:

Project Literacy Kelowna

Contact: Maxine Veach

Phone: 762-2163

We are entering our tenth year of meeting our community's literacy needs. Our one-to-one adult literacy program continues to provide free and confidential tutoring based on learners' needs and goals. Last year 55 adult learners received help from our tutors.

Our Youth Outreach Program places trained volunteer tutors in our local Storefront School to help young adults improve their basic literacy skills and develop a love of learning. Last year this successful program helped over 140 youth on their way towards completing their grade 12 studies.

We continue to promote literacy and help non-readers improve their lives through better literacy skills.

Who We Are

Our mission is to promote literacy, to support literacy learners, to develop community partnerships, and to present a united voice on literacy. We are supported by the B.C. Ministry of Education, Skills, and Training; the National Literacy Secretariat; memberships; and donations.

You can reach us at:

Literacy B.C.

622 - 510 West Hastings Street
Vancouver, B.C. V6B 1L8

Phone: 1-800-663-1293 toll free in B.C.

(604) 684-0624 in the Lower Mainland

Fax: (604) 684-8520

E-mail: literacy_bc@douglas.bc.ca

Donations to Literacy B.C. are tax deductible.

News from across B.C.

From the West Kootenays:

Project Literacy West Kootenays

Castlegar:

Contact: Judy Wearmouth
Phone/Fax: 365-7765

Nakusp:

Contact: Jennifer Cliff-Marks
Phone: 265-3363 Fax: 265-3774

Nelson:

Contact: Joanne Harris
Phone: 352-6333 Fax: 354-1799

Trail:

Contact: Trish Harrison
Phone: 364-1731 Fax: 364-2176

40 learners are meeting with tutors in Nakusp, Trail, Nelson, Castlegar, New Denver, and the surrounding areas. 22 new tutors were trained in Castlegar, Trail, and Nelson. We have applied for a cost-shared grant to expand our services to Grand Forks.

We have purchased new materials for tutors and learners with money raised in local fund raising events. We are also planning a regional tutor/coordinator ESL workshop on April 13.

In partnership with Selkirk College, we are planning a regional learner event in Nelson at the Nelson museum on April 19.

From New Caledonia:

Project Literacy Prince George

Contact: Joan Jarman
Phone: 563-9251 Fax: 563-0892

Our major project in 1995 was the completion of a local study funded by HRDC. The results of the study are included in a report, *The Workskills Program: A pre-employment program for adults with learning difficulties*, by consultants Patti Bateman and Eileen Davenport.

When the board sought funding from HRDC for a program for people with learning disabilities in the Prince George region, a grant application was prepared by a Steering Committee made up of Project Literacy members. Many hours of volunteer time were given to preparing the application, securing the funding, and hiring the consultants.

Our consultants interviewed potential clients about their learning differences. They also prepared a program, curriculum, and budget based on the resources available in our community. The quality of the report speaks for itself, and for all the clients and providers that were interviewed.

Although HRDC is unable to fund the implementation phase of the WorkSkills program, the board is actively seeking funding. We trust that a program for adults with learning disabilities will be implemented in our area in the near future.

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News from across B.C.

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Several events during the year have increased awareness of Project Literacy Prince George:

- ◆ Carol Johnson, joined by the public library mascot, "Wormsworth the Book Worm," provided a children's storytelling booth at "Safe and Sound," a community safety fair in May.
- ◆ Superior Propane's second annual "Fill for Literacy" campaign was a huge success this year. Proceeds were shared with the Dyslexia Resource Centre.
- ◆ Northwood Pulp and Timber committed to donate \$1,000 - \$1,500 to the WorkSkills program - after hearing our presentation on learning disabilities.
- ◆ The literacy supplement *Reading Needs You . . . and You Need Reading*, was distributed to 17,000 households on September 7. The supplement was a cooperative effort of the public library, six literacy-minded sponsors, Project Literacy Prince George, and the *Citizen* newspaper.
- ◆ International Literacy Day, September 8, was celebrated with the circulation of the supplement and "Take 5 and Read" posters and bookmarks.
- ◆ Carol Johnson served as our representative to Literacy B.C., taking our ideas to the provincial board and keeping us all informed on what is happening provincially.

From the Northwest:

Project Literacy Smithers

Contact: Sandra Fehr

Phone: 847-9694 Fax: 847-4568

During 1995/96, Project Literacy Smithers moved under the umbrella of the Smithers Community Services Association. Together, we applied for and received a grant from Canada Employment and Immigration for development of a Literacy Centre in Smithers. This project runs until the end of March 1996. The Centre is run through the Community Services volunteer bureau and its enthusiastic coordinator, Lois Hobley. Hopefully, continued funding will keep the Centre open. In partnership with Northwest Community College we have applied for a cost-shared project through MOEST to provide literacy services. The Centre will hold tutor training sessions in conjunction with Hazelton's Literacy Centre within the next month. We hope to advertise more openly for students once sufficient tutors are available.

We are an active member of the Regional Literacy Advisory Group which spans the Northwest from Houston to Haida Gwaii. We currently hold the regional cost-shared grant for establishment of a Regional Literacy Endowment Fund. The groundwork for this fund raising campaign is now being built, with a tentative kickoff for September - the month of reading!

News from across B.C.

Houston Link to Learning

Contact: Dee McRae

Phone: 845-2727 Fax: 845-3521

Houston Link to Learning is a partner in The Learning Centre, with Northwest Community College, Morice Community Skills Centre (CSC), and Houston Storefront School. While the partnership has been official for only six months, we can already see the results. Learners can move between the three course providers and have a tutor help them in one or all of their courses. The partners are continually working to remove barriers and meet the needs of learners.

We have offered a free, four hour Super Basic Computer Course, twice last fall and twice in January. The instructors and tutors are volunteer. The skills developed include mouse control, turning the computer on and off, opening applications, and other very basic topics. Response has been great. Learners wishing to practice skills can use the public access computers we have placed in the public library. The college arranged a series of courses to follow in logical order for learners wishing to take further courses. These follow-up courses are full to overflowing. Some of the indirect positive spin-offs from these courses include public awareness, tutors for other subject areas, and general goodwill. We want to continue identifying and removing the barriers for learners wishing to attend available courses. Many people are so uncomfortable with technology that they

do not even consider taking a computer course.

Our current cost-shared project, "Lunchroom Learning," places a multi-media computer in the lunchrooms at the mills. Two are currently set up and response has been excellent. We have meshed this project with the basic skills upgrading offered at the Morice CSC. The "Lunchroom Learning" coordinator finds that literacy level workers are contacting him in the lunchroom and discussing issues prior to visiting the Learning Centre and committing to the skills upgrading.

On a very small scale (no budget basis) we are starting a family literacy series at the public library in conjunction with storyhour. These weekly sessions will be based on a ten minute clip from the *Homespun Literacy and Your Family* video series followed by discussion, feedback, and materials selection.

Our Learner's Event is planned for late March. The committee is planning a Wellness Fair, aimed at the adult student. Workshop sessions will include nutrition, parenting, time management, and stress reduction. We are looking forward to a full and healthy day.

In our one-on-one tutoring program we currently have 15 matched learners and tutors. We see a need for tutors to assist in the basic skills upgrading through the CSC, so tutor training and professional development will include sessions in the Skills Centre.



News from across B.C.

Learning Opportunities Group Society

Contact: Karen Erickson
Phone: 842-5291 Fax: 842-5813

In October 1995, the Learning Opportunities Group Society and Northwest Community College obtained funding to respond to the literacy needs of people in the Hazelton area. Our goals are to: research and provide a written report on a community action plan for literacy; tie the communities together on literacy issues and initiatives; and raise public awareness of literacy issues and education.

Karen Erickson, Literacy Coordinator, has been hired to meet with community members to talk about literacy initiatives and to find ways to support people who are engaged in literacy work. We would be interested in exchanging information, resources and strategies on the following topics:

- ◆ the relationship between literacy and orality
- ◆ literacy in First Nations communities
- ◆ first language literacy, particularly First Nations languages
- ◆ family literacy
- ◆ reaching out to learners

Project Literacy Terrace

Contact: Janet Harris
Phone: 635-9119 Fax: 635-9339

We recently hired a new coordinator, Bob Butchart. Bob has been a teacher and tutor and is a local person who knows this area very well.

On February 1 we called a meeting of representatives from different agencies to receive direction on how to serve the community's literacy needs. Front-line workers from 20 agencies attended. The meeting was a great success and the response was overwhelming. As a result of the meeting, we will be working with the Kermode Friendship Society to develop a family literacy program.

Queen Charlotte Islands Haida Gwaii Literacy Group

Contact: Lynn Fraser
Phone: 626-3627 Fax: 626-3699

This is the first year we have had any literacy funding. As a first step, we conducted a needs assessment last fall. Interviews were conducted with people in the seven communities of the Queen Charlotte Islands. With cost-shared funding from NLS and MOEST, we have put together a tutor training program. The program was offered in Masset and in Queen Charlotte City in March. We currently have 20 trained tutors in the Queen Charlottes.

News from across B.C.

Literacy Kitimat

Contact: Janette Camazzola
Phone: 632-3139 Fax: 632-3368

Qualified teachers and trained tutors from the 1990-95 sessions were able to fill all instructional needs so there was no tutor training this year.

With the active participation of Joe Vander Kwaak, principal of North Coast Distance Education School, some of our students have embarked on their graduation courses. Assessments and upgrading are provided for Bridges, a training program for women run by Kitimat Community Services and funded by MOEST.

From Northern Lights:

Dawson Creek Literacy Society

Contact: May Boychuk
Phone: 782-5251 Fax: 782-6069

This has been a fairly quiet year for learner/tutor matches. We provided materials for families who wish to tutor their own family members and some learners were provided with individual help to reach specific goals necessary for course entry. ESL learners are being assisted in ABE classes at Northern Lights College. These learners have graduated from individual tutor help and represent most of the learners who required tutors.

Fort St. John Literacy Society

Contact: Nora Bitner
Phone: 785-2110 Fax: 785-2127

The Fort St. John Literacy Society continues with partnerships and volunteers who do many things to bring services to learners in the community. Some help to train and match tutors while others raise funds to keep the Contact Centre open.

We are a partner in two workplace projects. One develops mathematics and reading curricula at the Industrial Education Advancement (IEA) School. The other, called WORKTRAC, offers short basic skills courses at workplaces.

The Fort St. John Public Library and Northern Lights College have joined us in a partnership to continue the Contact Centre for volunteer tutoring, and to develop a drop-in study hall for part-time learners. Right now there are eight available tutors for six active matches, and six pending. Two ABE instructors are offering study hall help to eight learners at the IEA School and at the Contact Centre.

During the year we participated in the Superior Propane "Fill for Literacy" campaign and organized a golf tournament that included Jack Munro as guest speaker. The Rotary Club contributed generously for our work with learners in the community. Partnerships and volunteers keep us close to the community and help keep the literacy network alive.



News from across B.C.

From Laubach Literacy:

Laubach B.C. Interior Field Services Coordinator

Contact: Jan Seedhouse
Phone: 1-800-766-4660
Fax: 838-0636

Laubach is an international, volunteer-based organization offering adults free, confidential, one-on-one tutoring in reading, writing, numeracy, and other life skills. There are active councils in Kamloops, Clearwater, Chase, Golden, and the Lower Mainland.

Jan Seedhouse, B.C. Interior Field Services Coordinator, will be travelling around the province helping new groups get organized. Call Jan at the

Laubach Regional Coordinator Lower Mainland

Contact: Karen Power
Phone: 522-7818 Fax: 522-7505

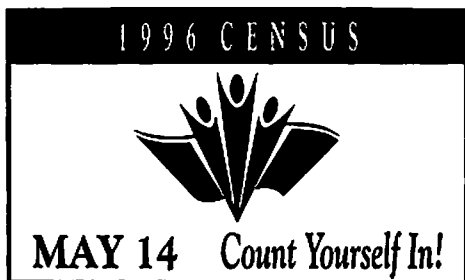
new toll free number for information about Laubach materials and methods.

Laubach will hold its biannual convention in Vancouver May 2 - 5, 1996. Non-members are welcome to attend. The conference offers an opportunity to learn more about the organization and to attend a wide variety of mini-workshops on tutoring techniques and topical issues in literacy. ☐

Thank you, volunteers!

Communities across Canada will celebrate **National Volunteer Week** from April 21 - 27, 1996. This special week is set aside to thank and honour the people who donate time and energy to their fellow citizens and to the causes they believe in. Volunteer Week also increases public awareness of the vital contribution that volunteers make to our communities and to Canadian society as a whole.

Countdown to the 1996 Census



Count Yourself In! - that's the message Statistics Canada is sending to all Canadians as it prepares for the 1996 Census on May 14.

The national census takes place every five years. On May 14 over 29 million people across the country will be required to complete a census form. The form gathers essential information on the social and economic conditions of Canadians. This information is used to make policy decisions about Canada's health, education, and social programs. HRDC uses the results of the Census to determine where money is distributed for employment, literacy, or language training programs. Census data on education and language also help literacy and ESL educators make decisions about program delivery.

For help in filling out the Census form, call the Census Help Line

The Census Help Line is a toll-free multilingual phone service that will operate from May 9 - 17, 1996. Census representatives will answer your questions and help you with your form.



Specialized census materials for the literacy community

The Census Promotion Program provides specialized materials for literacy instructors and learners. The ABE kit includes a Teacher's Guide and Student Handbook. The kit provides information on the Census and exercises and discussion questions for use in literacy and ESL classes.

Copies of the kit are available from:

Pacific Region Census Office
Statistics Canada
340F - 757 West Hastings Street
Vancouver, B.C. V6C 3C9

Phone: 666-1083
Fax: 666-0526

Announcements

Superior Propane Learner Award

As part of its support for literacy and the PGI Golf Tournament, Superior Propane is once again providing a \$200 Learner Award. Every year the award is given to an adult learner who is currently attending and planning to continue in a literacy program. The winner is chosen by a committee of adult learners.

To be eligible for the award the learner must:

- ◆ have attended a program for at least six months, and preferably a year
- ◆ have an excellent attendance record
- ◆ obtain a recommendation from a teacher or tutor
- ◆ have shown substantial or exceptional progress

For more information, and to request an application form, contact:

Literacy B.C.

Phone: 1-800-663-1293

Fax: 684-8520

**Superior
Propane Inc.**

Give the Gift of Literacy Grants

The Canadian Give the Gift of Literacy Foundation provides grants to non-profit community literacy groups to:

- ◆ develop an idea, perform a needs assessment, and create a working sample of a project (up to \$2,500)
- ◆ produce materials for adult learners and their instructors (up to \$5,000)

The application deadline is June 26, 1996. For more information, contact:

Canadian Give the Gift of Literacy
Foundation

35 Spadina Road

Toronto, Ontario

M5R 2S9

Phone: (416) 975-9366

Fax: (416) 975-1839



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